

REMARKS

Drawings

The Examiner has stated that Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as –Prior Art – because only that which is old is illustrated. Claim 1 has been amended, and as discussed below, is believed to be in a condition for allowance. “Fig. 1 illustrates one embodiment of a manufacturing system associated with the present invention” [Paragraph 11]. For example, the workstation 104 may be used to display information to be used by the operator to assemble the product. [Paragraph 11]. As such, Claim 1, or a portion thereof, may be practiced on the workstation 104. Therefore, Claim 1 is believed to represent a figure that is not Prior Art, and there should not be labeled as such. Therefore, the request to mark Figure 1, is respectfully traversed.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 9 were objected to. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended in response to the Examiner’s suggestion and the Examiner is respectfully requested to remove the objection.

In addition, The Examiner objected to Claims 1, 4, and 12. These claims have been amended per the Examiner’s suggestions and the Examiner is respectfully requested to remove the objection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1 – 11 have been rejected as claiming an invention directed towards non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner has stated that Claims 1 – 11 were rejected because they do not require computer implementation or use computer technology to accomplish the method. Claim 1 has been amended accordingly, and therefore the Examiner is requested to remove the rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the relationship between the display and the workstation.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4, 7 – 9 and 12 as allegedly being “anticipated” by U.S. Patent No. 6,240,328 to LaLonde. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 5. Therefore, Applicants traverses the rejection associated with Claims 1, 4, 7, and 8 based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection, and that he withdraw it.

In a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, each and every claim element must be present in the applied reference. Neither LaLonde or Ouchi (U.S. Patent No. 5, 831,407, which the Examiner used to reject Claim 5) teach “exhausting a first manufacturing component associated with said changed instruction before using a second manufacturing component in response to said changed manufacturing instruction”, as recited in Claim 1. The Examiner has stated with respect to Claim 5: “LaLonde does not specifically teach using up a component before a changed component is utilized in the manufacturing of a product, . . .”. [Official Action of October 12, 2004, Page 6, Section 9]. The Examiner alleges that Ouchi does teach such a limitation. Ouchi discloses a “numerically controlling apparatus for the machine tool comprising the function of automatically determining tools and machine conditions and the function of displaying and editing tool paths.” [Ouchi, Col. 1, Line 10 – 15]. The Examiner cites the passage:

FIG. 7 illustrates a block diagram of the NC apparatus for the machine tool of an embodiment of the invention of claim 2. In FIG. 7, reference numeral 1 designates a standard database, reference numeral 2 designates a user's own database, reference numeral 4 designates a working process information inputting means, reference numeral 5 designates a

tool and machining condition automatically determining means, reference numeral 6 designates an NC data generating means, reference numeral 7 designates an NC device, reference numeral 21 designates a database managing means re-determining the data of tools and machining conditions having been determined before the modification in accordance with the modified data, and reference numeral 22 designates a data editing means modifying the data in the databases. In addition to them, there is equipped a display unit (not shown) displaying the contents of the aforementioned standard database 1 and the aforementioned user's own database 2 during making up NC programs.

Next, the operation will be described thereof. FIG. 8 illustrates a flow chart showing the procedures of manipulations and operations, and the description will be done on the basis of FIG. 8. In the NC apparatus constructed as mentioned above, the automatic determination of the data of tools and machining conditions is done like in the embodiment 1. Now, the operator can call out the contents of the database 1 and 2 (STEP ST11, STEP ST12), and can make the contents display on the display unit (not shown) (STEP ST13), at any time during the operations of making up NC programs. And, he can modify and change the displayed contents with the data editing means 22 (STEP ST14). As a concrete example of the modification, there is a case, for instance, where one value of the cutting speed is changed, and so on. [Ouchi, Col. 14, Line 38 – Col. 15, Line 3].

The above referenced passage does not teach or suggest “exhausting a first manufacturing component associated with said changed instruction before using a second manufacturing component in response to said changed manufacturing instruction”, as recited in Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1, as amended, and the associated dependent claims 1 – 4, 6 – 8, are believed to be in a condition for allowance.

Claim 9 has been amended to recite “displaying said changed manufacturing instruction in response to a defined time based event occurring”. LaLonde does not teach or suggest such a limitation. The Examiner has indicated that LaLonde does disclose a system that “dynamically generates and schedules products on a per order bases. Because the assembler on the assembly line follow step-by-step instructions, unique configurations can be ordered or process changes can be modified without creating any impact on manufacturing.” [Col. 9, Line 12 – 18]. The Examiner appears to indicate that this passage infers that the system can display the changed manufacturing instruction on an order by order basis.

However, this does not teach or suggest displaying the changed instruction in response to a time based event (e.g., at the beginning of a new shift). Therefore, Claim 9, and the associated dependent Claims 10 – 11, are believed to be in a condition for allowance.

Claim 12 has been amended to recite “said computer controller configured to receive a change in a manufacturing instruction associated with said manufacturing line and delivering said changed manufacturing instruction to one of said work stations in response to a defined time based event”. Analogous to the discussion associated with Claim 9, LaLonde does not teach or suggest such a limitation. Therefore, Claim 12 is believed to be in a condition for allowance.

Claim 14 has been added. LaLonde does not teach or suggest “ identifying an operator; and displaying said changed manufacturing instruction in response to said operator identification”. Therefore, Claim 14, and the associated dependent Claims 15 – 17 are believed to be in a condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claim 2 under the obviousness provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,240,328 to LaLonde in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,008,842 to Nagai. The rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 2 depends from amended Claim 1, which is believed to be in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, since Claim 2 depends from an allowable claim, it is also believed to be in a condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 5 and 6 under the obviousness provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,240,328 to LaLonde in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,831,407 to Ouchi. The rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 5 has been withdrawn and incorporated into Claim 1 (addressed above). Claim 6 depends from amended Claim 1, which is believed to be in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, since Claim 6 depends from an allowable claim, it is also believed to be in a condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 10 and 11 under the obviousness provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,240,328 to LaLonde in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,345,207 to Nitta. The rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 10 and 11 depend from amended Claim 9, which is believed to be in a

condition for allowance. Accordingly, since Claim 10 and 11 depend from an allowable claim, it is also believed to be in a condition for allowance.

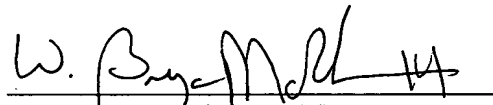
Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that Claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. [Official Action, October 12, 2005, Page 8, Section 11]. Accordingly, Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form, as Claim 18. Therefore, Claim 18 is believed to be in a condition for allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections, and that he withdraw them. The Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned representative if he believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Bryan McPherson III", written over a horizontal line.

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